

Proposal by George Lyons

My request has nothing directly to do with making files available over the Internet. My intention is to bring to the WTS meeting a CD with all of the edited html files of the Journal to demonstrate it for you.

The Wesley Center will continue to abide by the arrangement of having the most recent issue available online to be five years old -- 1995 in 2000, etc. Right now the latest issue we have online is 1993.

NNU student employees of the Wesley Center are nearing completion of all of the back issues through volume 30. Only a few volumes remain unedited in html and these will be ready by the annual meeting this March.

I received from you vols. 31--33 last year. They have been converted from Mac to PS and html-ized. If I had your latest disks with vols. 34 and 35, the CD I bring to WTS could be complete -- every issue from the beginning to the present -- 35 years of WTS on one CD.

My hope is that the Executive Committee will consider allowing the Wesley Center to offer the complete Wesleyan Theological Journal for sale on a CD. The search potential and the savings on storage space would be phenomenal. It can be produced on demand and easily updated annually. Thus, no inventory costs are involved.

The actual cost of producing each CDs would be around \$5 at present. This would include the cost of the blank disks, full color professional quality labels, jewel cases, and wages for a minimum wage student employee to do the duplication. Of course, this cost does not take into consideration the hundreds of hours in wages the Wesley Center has paid student editors to get the journals scanned and edited to this point.

Here is my proposal:

1) Offer to sell the initial 2000 edition of the CD to full members for \$39 each. Make that \$29 for students and \$59 for non-members.

2) Of this NNU's Wesley Center would receive \$19 each CD for its part in producing the CDs (we would pay for the materials, hardware, etc.) and to help us recover some of our costs in hardware purchases, scanning, and editing the journals to bring them to the CD. So far the online journal has been the Wesley Center's contribution to the Society. We have invested thousands of dollars getting it online. We did not do this with a profit motive or the expectation of a return on our investment. Nevertheless, it would certainly help us carry out our plans for new projects to have some income for a change.

3) The Society would get the balance of \$20 each for members, \$10 each for students, and \$40 each for non-members. The Society would pay for the distribution of the CDs -- by mail, at the annual meetings, AAR-SBL, etc.

The proceeds would be used at the discretion of the Executive Committee (and the Society by way of budget approval) for the endowment fund, scholarships, travel expenses, guest speakers expenses, etc.

4) The Wesley Center would update the CD annually and offer the updated CD to those who own the 2000 edition of the CD for \$14 (or whatever higher amount the Executive Committee sets). That amount would be divided equally between the Wesley Center and the WTS.

5) The cost of the 2001 and subsequent editions of the CD for first time users would need to be at least the same as the initial price of the 2000 edition -- \$39. The same formula for sharing the revenue as stated in points 1 through 3 above would apply.

6) The prices in future years could be negotiated annually depending on how popular the CD proves to be, what happens with inflation, and the costs of blank disks, labels, ink jet ink, etc.

7) I would think that institutional subscribers (libraries) should be charged on a different payment schedule. I suggest a figure of about \$200 and \$50 for annual updates. If they want to network the data on a local area network, I would suggest an additional charge of \$10 for every work station on which the CD is made available, up to a maximum of another \$200.

If the Executive Committee decides against this proposal, I will still need a copy of the disks, so we can arrange for their conversion from Mac to PC format, and to get them html-ized, for future placement on the Web.

This is what I had in mind. The Wesley Center is willing to negotiate on the details of this proposal. This is merely to get something that seems reasonable to me on the table for your consideration.

George

George,

Please clarify what data you hope to receive soon for your CD? Do you mean the disks of the two WTJ issues for 1999? If you do mean these, how does what you are planning with the CD relate to the earlier action of the Executive Committee regarding not making the most recent issues available electronically? If you could clarify for me, I will try to respond helpfully. Thanks!

Barry Callen